

AMENDMENTS

In the Title:

Please amend the title to read "Xanthane and Chitosane Based Polyionic Hydrogels for the Stabilization and Controlled Release of Vitamins".

In the Summary:

On page 3 of the application, lines 14 – 15, please delete "(e) incorporating by diffusion of the liposoluble substances from step (a) to the hydrogel;".

In the claims:

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

Claim 8 (amended)

A process for the preparation of the composition as defined in claim 6, comprising the following steps:

- (a) dissolving the liposoluble substances in ethanol;
- (b) adding this solution[,] while stirring[,] to a xanthane solution;
- (c) pulverizing the [mixture] solution from step (b) into an aqueous chitosane solution;
- (d) recovering the so-formed hydrogel[;].
- [(e) incorporating the liposoluble substances into the hydrogel by diffusion of the in ethanol dissolved liposoluble substances (95%/vol) and this at a concentration of 50%/vol.]

All the steps being carried out in the absence of oxygen and light.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

Claim 12 (amended)

The preparation process as defined in claim 9 wherein, the stabilization of the hydrosoluble substances is favored by the addition of [tri-peptides] oligopeptides during step (c).